

# Finding Aid of 33MSS-110 Edenton Peanut Company Letters

## Descriptive Summary

**Repository:** Outer Banks History Center, Manteo, N.C.

**Creator:** Edenton Peanut Company

**Title:** 33MSS-110, Edenton Peanut Company Letters

**Language of Materials:** English

**Location:** For current information on the location of these materials, please contact the Outer Banks History Center, [www.obhistorycenter.net](http://www.obhistorycenter.net).

### Abstract:

The Edenton Peanut Company was established in 1909 by members of the Wood and Shepherd families. By the 1930s, Edenton was the largest peanut market in the state and the second largest in the world. During World War II, Mr. James Wood of Edenton served as the president of the Edenton Peanut Company. Wood, for whom the company's flagship product "Jimbo's Jumbos" was named, shipped five-pound bags of peanuts to every service member from Chowan County he could locate. Many wrote thank-you letters back to the company—some to Mr. Wood, some to other company officers, and some just to the company.

The collection contains thank you letters written in June and July 1943 from men and women stationed at bases across the United States. The letters contain descriptions of service life, geography, and social interactions of the time.

### Extent:

29 letters, many with accompanying envelopes

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

### Copyright Notice:

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**Preferred Citation:** [Identification of Item] 33MSS-110, Edenton Peanut Company Letters, Outer Banks History Center, Manteo, NC., U.S.A.

**Acquisitions Information:**

Donated by Peter Rascoe in 2011, acquisitions no. OBHC 2011.10.4

**Processing Information**

**Processed by:** Sarah Downing

**Finding aid by:** Sarah Downing

**Historical Note:**

The Edenton Peanut Company was established in 1909 by members of the Wood and Shepherd families. Peanut production began in Chowan County in 1879, when 21 acres were cultivated to produce 113 bushels. In the following decades, production increased 300 percent. By the 1930s, Edenton was the largest peanut market in the state and the second largest in the world.

During World War II, Mr. James Wood of Edenton served as the president of the Edenton Peanut Company. Wood, for whom the company's flagship product "Jimbo's Jumbos" was named, shipped five-pound bags of peanuts to every service member from Chowan County he could locate. Many wrote thank-you letters back to the company— some to Mr. Wood, some to other company officers, and some just to the company.

In the late 1940s, changes in federal regulations governing peanut production were modified and required a company to purchase peanuts annually rather than several times a year. These modifications combined with changing market conditions caused the company to be sold to the Birdsong Corporation of Suffolk, Virginia in 1957.

**Collection Overview:**

The collection contains 29 thank you letters written in June and July 1943 from men and women stationed at bases across the United States. The letters contain descriptions of service life, geography, and social interactions of the time.

**Collection Arrangement:**

The letters in this collection are arranged chronologically.

**Online Catalog Headings:**

These and related materials may be found under the following headings in online catalogs.

### **Subject Terms**

Edenton Peanut Company  
Peanuts  
Sailors – Correspondence  
Soldiers – Correspondence  
Wood, James E., 1901 - 1995

### **Geographic Terms**

Edenton (N.C.)

### **Related Collections:**

Additional information on topics found in this collection may be found in the Manuscript and Archives Reference System (MARS) <http://www.ncarchives.dcr.state.nc.us>.

### **See also:**

### **Container List:**

Folder 1:1:1	Finding Aid
Folder 1:2.1	Correspondence, 1943